

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

automatically, via a computer[[,]]:

sending a trial order to a market, wherein the trial order identifies an item to trade and indicates a quantity and a price for the item, and wherein the trial order ~~differs from a regular order in that~~ is configured for its indicated quantity to be automatically set to zero when the trial order is paired with a contra-side order, ~~the quantity in the trial order is automatically set to zero,~~ and

~~automatically, via the computer,~~ receiving a pairing report ~~indicating that when the trial order would have been~~ is paired for the indicated quantity had it been a regular with a contra-side order in which the trial order is paired for a zero quantity of the item,

wherein the trial order ~~is for~~ provides discovery of current market depth for the item at [[a]] the indicated quantity and price and does not result in a trade while resulting in a pairing for a zero quantity of the item.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the pairing report also indicates the price at which the trial order ~~would have been~~ was paired if it had been a regular with the contra-side order.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically sending and receiving are performed by a trading process.

4. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

automatically, via a computer[[,]]:

receiving a trial order; ~~wherein the trial order that~~ identifies an item to trade and indicates a quantity and a price for the item, and ~~wherein the trial order differs from a regular~~

~~order in that when the trial order is paired with a contra side order, the quantity in the trial order is automatically set to zero,~~

~~automatically, via the computer or another computer, entering the trial order into an order file, and~~

~~automatically, via the computer or another computer, pairing the trial order with a contra-side order, wherein upon pairing, the quantity indicated in the trial order is automatically adjusted to zero as a result of being a trial order, which produces a pairing of the trial order with the contra-side order for a zero quantity of the item, and~~

~~reporting [[when]] the pairing of the trial order for the zero quantity of the item would have been paired had it been a regular order,~~

~~wherein the trial order is for discovery of current market depth at a price and does not result in a trade.~~

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising selecting the trial order for pairing with ~~an active side~~ the contra-side order without affecting the pairing priority of other orders in the order file.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~the automatically~~ reporting the pairing of the trial order includes sending a pairing report for the zero shares quantity of the item to a source of the trial order.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the pairing report includes the price at which the trial order ~~would have been~~ was paired ~~had it been a regular~~ with the contra-side order.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 29, further comprising automatically responding to a market inquiries inquiry based on orders in the order file other than the trial order.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[4]] 29, further comprising automatically removing the trial order from the order file after reporting ~~when it would have been paired~~ the pairing of the trial order.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the automatically receiving, ~~entering pairing~~, and reporting are performed by a market process that provides a market at which market participants trade items.

11. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the trial order is received from a trading process.

12. (Currently amended) A system configured to facilitate trading, comprising:  
a computing component configured to send a trial order to a market that enables market participants to trade items, wherein the trial order identifies an item to trade and indicates a quantity and a price for the item, and wherein the trial order differs from a regular order in that when the trial order is paired with a contra-side order, the quantity in the trial order is automatically set to zero, and wherein the computing component is further configured to receive a pairing report ~~therefrom indicating that~~ from the market in which the trial order ~~would have been~~ is reported as paired for the indicated quantity had it been a regular with a contra-side order for a zero quantity of the item,

wherein the trial order ~~is for~~ provides discovery of current market depth for the item at [[a]] the indicated quantity and price ~~and does not result in a trade~~ while resulting in a pairing for a zero quantity of the item.

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the pairing report received by the computing component also indicates the price at which the trial order ~~would have been~~ was paired if it had been a regular with the contra-side order.

14. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, the computing component is configured to execute a trading process that sends the trial order and receives the pairing report.

15. (Currently amended) A system configured to facilitate trading, comprising:  
one or more computing components configured to receive a trial order, ~~wherein the trial order that~~ identifies an item to trade and indicates a quantity and a price for the item, ~~the trial order differing from a regular order in that when~~ and pair the trial order is ~~paired~~ with a contra-side order, wherein upon pairing the quantity indicated in the trial order is automatically set to zero as a result of being a trial order, producing a pairing of the trial order with the contra-side order for a zero quantity of the item, and wherein the trial order is for discovery of current market depth at a price and does not result in a trade, said one or more computing components ~~[[being]]~~ are further configured to ~~enter the trial order into an order file and report [[when]] the pairing of the trial order would have been paired had it been a regular order for the zero quantity of the item.~~

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the one or more computing components are further configured to select the trial order for pairing with ~~an active side~~ the contra-side order without affecting the pairing priority of other orders in the order file.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the one or more computing components are configured to report ~~[[when]] the pairing of the trial order would have been paired~~ by sending a pairing report for the zero shares quantity of the item to a source of the trial order.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the pairing report includes the price at which the trial order ~~would have been~~ was paired ~~had it been a regular~~ with the contra-side order.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 3~~1~~, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the one or more computing components are further configured to automatically respond to a market inquiries inquiry based on orders in the order file other than the trial order.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 3~~1~~, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the one or more computing components are further configured to automatically remove the trial order from the order file after reporting ~~when it would have been paired~~ the pairing of the trial order.

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the one or more computing components are configured to execute a market process that performs the receiving, ~~entering~~ pairing, and reporting, wherein the market process is configured to provide a market at which market participants trade items.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the one or more computing components are configured to receive the trial order from a trading process.

23. (Currently amended) A computer-accessible medium having executable instructions stored thereon for facilitating trading at a market that enables market participants to trade items, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause a computer to:

receive a trial order; ~~wherein the trial order~~ that identifies an item to trade and indicates a quantity and a price for the item, ~~and wherein the trial order differs from a regular order in that when the trial order is paired with a contra side order, the quantity in the trial order is automatically set to zero,~~

~~enter the trial order into an order file, and~~

pair the trial order with a contra-side order, wherein upon pairing the quantity indicated in the trial order is automatically adjusted to zero as a result of being a trial order, which produces a pairing of the trial order with the contra-side order for a zero quantity of the item, and

report ~~[[when]]~~ the pairing of the trial order for the zero quantity of the item ~~would have been paired at the market had it been a regular order,~~

~~wherein the trial order is for discovery of current market depth at a price and does not result in a trade.~~

24. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim 23, wherein the executable instructions further cause the computer to select the trial order for pairing with ~~an active-side~~ the contra-side order without affecting the pairing priority of other orders in the order file.

25. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions, when executed, cause the computer to send a pairing report for the zero shares quantity of the item to a source of the trial order.

26. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim 25, wherein the pairing report includes the price at which the trial order ~~would have been~~ was paired ~~had it been a regular~~ with the contra-side order.

27. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 33, wherein the executable instructions further cause the computer to respond to a market inquiry ~~inquiries~~ inquiry based on orders in the order file other than the trial order.

28. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible medium of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 33, wherein the executable instructions further cause the computer to remove the trial order from the order file after reporting ~~when it would have been paired~~ the pairing of the trial order.

29. (New) The method of claim 4, further comprising entering the trial order into an order file that contains orders to be paired with contra-side orders.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the order file is maintained by a market process that provides a market that enables market participants to trade items.

31. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the one or more computing components are further configured to enter the trial order into an order file that contains orders to be paired with contra-side orders.

32. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein the order file is maintained by a market process that provides a market that enables market participants to trade items.

33. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 23, wherein the executable instructions further cause the computer to enter the trial order into an order file that contains orders to be paired with contra-side orders.

34. (New) The computer-accessible medium of claim 33, wherein the order file is maintained by a market process that provides a market that enables market participants to trade items.